of the working areas for the purpose of judging of the *present* capability of the blocks, and the working down of a large quantity of abandoned timber from the forests. Early in the year, the Conservator reported that, presumably on account of the reckless operations of contractors and permit-holders in previous years, large quantities of abandoned royal and junglewood timber were found lying in the forests in all stages of decay. The systematic removal of this timber from the forests and its transfer to the sale-depots was undertaken through departmental agency. It is expected that it would take another two years or so to finish this work.

12. Revenue:—The net Forest Revenue was Rs. 2,75,000. It exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 1,10,000. The percentage of expenditure to gross revenue fell from 76 to 68.

Salt, Excise and Customs.

13. Revenue:—Taking the above three branches of revenue together, for which the Excise Commissioner is responsible, there was a substantial increase, as the following figures would show:—

Head of Revenue.	1083 Rs.	1084 Rs.	Increase Rs.
Salt	9,82,568	10,08,854	26,286
Excise (Abkari, Opium and Ganja, and Tobacco) ...	22,11,876	23,22,868	1,10,992
Customs	10,80,942	13,35,552	2,54,610
Total.....	42,75,386	46,67,274	3,91,888

14. Abkari Policy:—His Highness' Government have continued the policy of introducing the Excise system gradually in the administration of the Abkari Revenue, in lieu of the old Farming system. The Excise system was in force, during the year, in the Padmanabhapuram, Trivandrum and Quilon Divisions. The advantage of the system is that it gives to Government the maximum revenue along with the minimum possible licit consumption of liquor. The introduction of the Excise system is generally accompanied by a substantial reduction in the number of liquor shops. For example, during the year, the number of arrack and toddy shops in the Excise area fell from 4,279 to 2,217. It is anticipated that within another three years or so, the Excise system would prevail throughout the State.

Legislative and Judicial.

15. Legislation:—Several important Regulations were passed during the year. Firstly, there was the Regulation providing for the establishment of

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